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Reds Expel American Tourist, Accusing Him of Being a Spy

MOSCOW, Aug. 11 (UPI)

The Soviet Union today ordered Robert Christner, a 27-year-old American tourist, expelled for alleged spy activities.

Christner, of Sparks, Nev., said the charges were unfounded and that he was so "mad and disgusted I don't know what to do . . . I'm flabbergasted."

He said he had asked his Soviet guides for permission to take certain photographs and that they replied, "Please do." These were the same pictures the Soviet government asserted proved his espionage activities, Christner said.

The American Embassy said its cultural counsellor, Lee Brady, was called to the Foreign Ministry, told of Christner's expulsion and warned that the United States must cease using tourists for espionage purposes.

Part of Red Campaign

(The State Department described the expulsion of Christner as another part of "a current campaign to inflame public opinion" prior to the opening on Aug. 17 of the espionage trial of American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

Christner learned fluent Russian at the U. S. Army's foreign language school at Monterrey, Calif., and worked temporarily as a researcher in the library of Congress.

The Soviet Union charged that "during his trips in Russia, he drew topographical maps of various areas marking on them railways, bridges and radio areas" and that he "kept his intelligence notes and film in a specially designed belt which he wore under his clothing."

Job Here Described

[In Washington, the Library of Congress said Christner worked there from April 8 to June 30 as a temporary employe in its Slavic and Central European Division. His job was to gather materials on assignment from the reference department staff.

[Christner, who is unmarried, graduated from the University of Nevada in 1953 where he studied history and politics. He then enlisted in the Army and after studying Russian was assigned to the Army Security Agency in Germany.

[After his discharge from the Army Christner continued his Russian studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Before moving to Washington, he told the Library, he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Sparks.]